

2125 Ames St.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90027
August 18, 1980

Superintendent's Office
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
Ash Mountain
Three Rivers, Ca. 93271

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your comprehensive management plan for Mineral King of July 1980.

We are pleased that the basic intent of this plan is to preserve the natural and scenic features of the fragile valley for present and future generations. We agree with the plan of making only those improvements in the road that will reduce erosion. In view of the gasoline shortage and the fact that parking in the valley is at a premium and the fact that Mineral King is a major trail head for back packers, plans should include the eventual use of bus service on the access road. Back packers without bulky tent camping equipment could park at the foot of the road and take the bus to the trail head.

We feel that eventually additional camp sites will be needed and the area could support added camps without damaging the environment. We feel the Atwell Mill campground is not damaging the environment, but if it must be removed, Camp Conifer could be developed for camping - perhaps for walk-in camps. We are pleased that Coldspring Campground will be expanded. Sunny Point Campground could also be opened for walk-in camps.

Eventually there may be need for additional rental facilities at Silver City.

For the past 15 years, we have been active in seeking to preserve Mineral King from exploitation and development and we are most pleased that this is the basic concept of the National Park Service in managing Mineral King.

Sincerely,

Richard Koch, M.D.

K. Jean Koch

CC: The Honorable "Chip" Pashayan
The Honorable Alan Cranston
The Honorable S. I. Hayakawa
The Honorable Henry Waxman
The Honorable Rose Ann Vuich